



## **MARYLAND HEALTH CARE COMMISSION**

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### **MARYLAND PROMOTES PATIENT CENTERED MEDICAL HOME PILOT**

*Pilot will reward primary care providers for improvements in patient care and lowered costs.*

**Bethesda, MD & Columbia, MD** (Tuesday, June 29 & Wednesday, June 30, 2010) Dr. Paul Grundy, a nationally renowned expert on the patient centered medical home, will be the keynote speaker at symposia Tuesday night in Bethesda and Wednesday night in Columbia. These symposia mark the second week of meetings with primary care providers to discuss the pilot program and to convey its advantages for both patients and primary care providers. This summer, the Maryland Health Care Commission will hold symposia throughout the State. The first two meetings were held in Baltimore and Cambridge. Following this week's symposia, the next two will take place in Hagerstown and Fallston during July. Under the direction of the Maryland Health Care Commission, the State aims to involve 50 practices, with 200 physicians and at least 200,000 patients in this initiative.

Legislation creating a three-year Patient Centered Medical Home Pilot program passed the General Assembly earlier this year and was championed by Lieutenant Governor Anthony G. Brown. The legislation grew out of the Maryland Health Quality and Cost Council, established by Governor Martin O'Malley and chaired by Lt. Governor Brown and Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary John M. Colmers.

"Our newly established Patient Centered Medical Home program will allow Maryland to move forward with health care reform, improve the quality of care, and reduce costs by offering primary care providers responsible incentives to spend more time with patients, coordinate care, and promote prevention and wellness," said Lt. Governor Brown. "We are incredibly grateful that Dr. Grundy has joined our efforts and is sharing his expertise with our primary care providers."

The Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) is an innovative way to deliver primary care. Provider-led teams of health care professionals provide coordinated, patient-centered care across the complex health care system. Enhanced access, expanded hours, telephone and email communications, coupled with an emphasis on prevention and wellness, result in improved quality of care, and fewer emergency department visits and expensive hospitalizations. Primary care providers receive additional reimbursement for providing these services and the opportunity to share in the savings from reduced costs. Similar programs throughout the nation report high patient and provider satisfaction.

"Primary care is the foundation of high-performing health systems," said Dr. Paul Grundy, IBM's director of healthcare transformation. "Maryland is leading the nation with a new approach that has proven to be good both for people's health and their pocketbooks, preventing disease, assisting patients to navigate a complex health system, helping patients to manage chronic conditions — and the associated high costs of hospital care."

“The medical home model aims to improve patient health and elevate the role of the primary care provider in our health system,” said Health and Mental Hygiene Secretary John M. Colmers. “Through this initiative, we can begin to change how health care is delivered by focusing on the whole patient, increasing coordination across the care continuum, and improving access for both the healthy and the chronically ill.”

“Maryland now joins more than 18 states across the nation that are currently implementing innovative PCMH models,” said Ben Steffen, Director of the MHCC’s Center for Information Services and Analysis, which staffed the Maryland Health Quality and Cost Council’s planning process and will administer the program. “Our State-wide Pilot engages private carriers as well as Medicaid in an innovative health care reform model that is set to launch in January 2011,” added Mr. Steffen.

**For more information about Maryland’s PCMH initiative, call  
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